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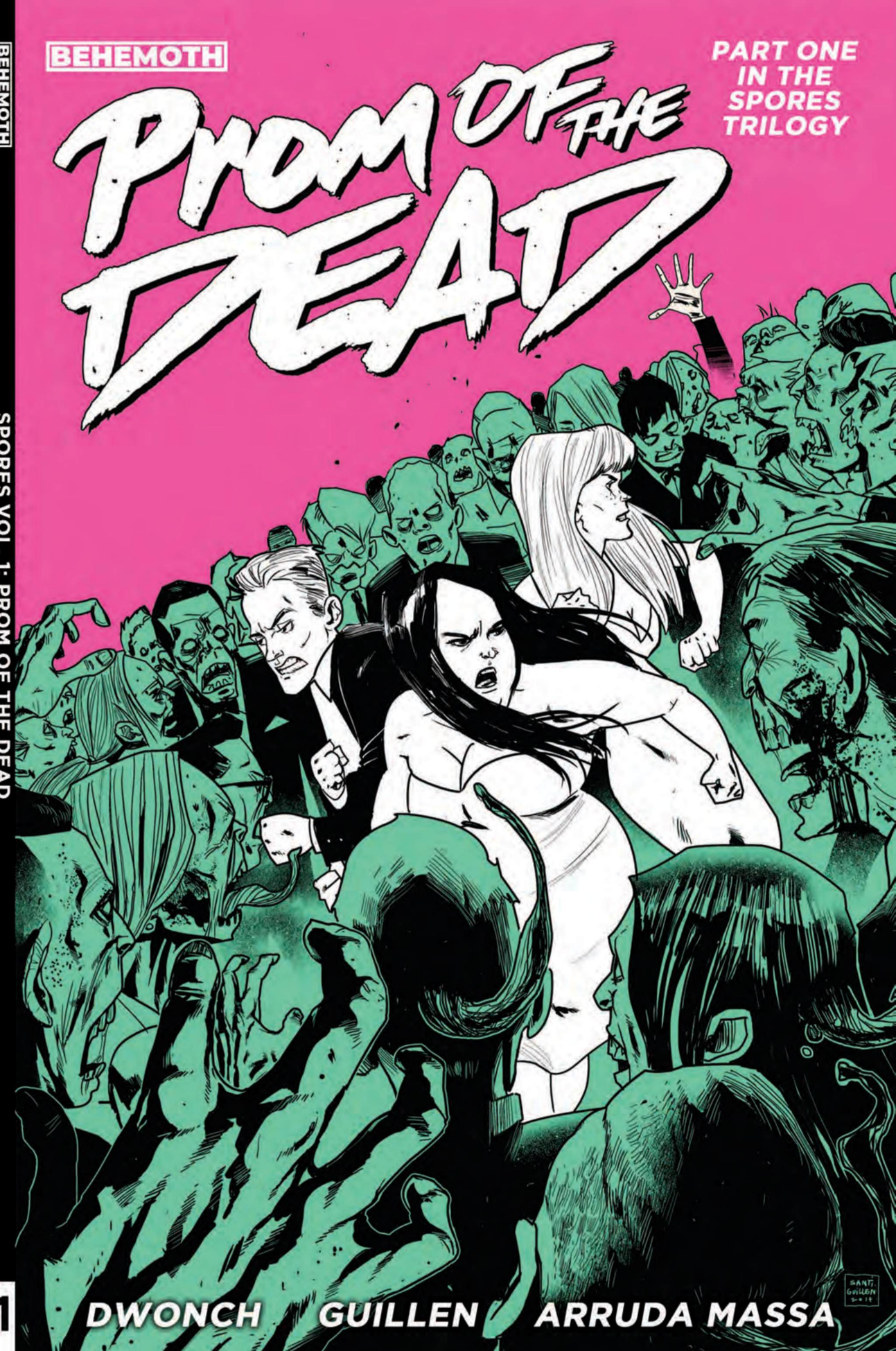
BEHEMOTH

SPORES VOL. 1: PROM OF THE DEAD

BEHEMOTH

PROM OF THE DEAD

PART ONE IN THE SPORES TRILOGY



DWONCH GUILLEN ARRUDA MASSA

1

NOW.

I didn't think it would happen this way.

This... this isn't me. I'm a good girl. I was going to wait.

For the right guy. For college. I dunno, for love.

SCRTTCH

But this is it. The big day.

SCRTTCH SCRTTCH SCRTTCH

It's funny how a night like this can change your perspective on things.

I'm not waiting any longer.

SCRTTCH SCRTTCH SCRTTCH

I'm 16 years old, it's prom night, and time is running out...

...Because I'm pretty sure I'll be dead by morning.

PROM

GYMNASIUM

SCRTTCH
SCRTTCH
SCRTTCH

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NINE DAYS AGO.

I DON'T KNOW, ERIKA. I THINK I'D RATHER PUT A BULLET IN MY BRAIN.

C'MON, TINA, IT'LL BE *FUN.*

YOU KNOW I HATE WHEN YOU CALL ME THAT.

BUT CHRISTINA SOUNDS SO *PROPER*. YOU'RE A TINA FOR SURE.

BITCH.

HEY, LADIES. WHAT ARE YOU TWO ALL HUFFY ABOUT?

WHAT?! THE METEOR SHOWER IS GONNA BE *EPIC.*

CHRISTINA DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO THE WEBSTER TONIGHT.

SAID THE NERD TO THE GEEK.

SAID THE ANTI-SOCIAL LONER TO THE LADIES' MAN WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS.

SERIOUSLY, THIS METEOR SHOWER ONLY HAPPENS ONCE EVERY 300 YEARS, I HEARD.

HOW CAN YOU PASS THAT UP?

PLUS, IT'LL BE THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR. BIGGER THAN PROM EVEN.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, *MISTER MCGUFFIN?*

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

SMART ASS KIDS...

SEE? EVEN GRUMPY OLD MCGUFFIN THINKS I'M RIGHT-- A GENIUS, EVEN. YOU TWO *HAVE TO GO.*

SEE YOU LATER, LADIES.

SIGH

SEE YOU, COOPER.

SO, YOU THINK HE'LL GO WITH ME?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT. AND IF YOU DON'T ASK SOON, SOMEONE IS BOUND TO SWOOP IN.

I HEARD THAT CHANDRA ISN'T COMING BACK THIS SEMESTER.

I HEARD SHE TOTALLY GOT KNOCKED UP, AND *NOT* WITH ADAM. I HEARD SHE WAS FUCKING HER GARDENER.

JUST LIKE HER TO SLUM IT WITH *THE HELP.*

YOU TWO ARE COMPLETE *DICKS.*

YAWN WELL, YOU *ARE* WHAT YOU EAT.

WHATEVER.

I HEAR SHE'S COMING TO WEBSTER BEACH TONIGHT. SHE BETTER BE WEARING A *ONE PIECE.*

NO ONE WANTS TO SEE HER *BABY BUMP.*

FELICIA

BETHANY

I SHAMNA

HATE THEM ALL!!

I HATE FAT PEOPLE.

RIGHT. THEY ARE SO SAD, LIKE--

UM... REALLY??

RING

LATIN.

"DIES ENIM IUDICII ERIT *FINIS TEMPORIS* HUIUS ET INITIUM FUTURI INMORTALIS TEMPORIS." FROM THE VULGATE.

NOW, IF YOU DID YOUR READING, YOU KNOW IT MEANS, "FOR THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT WILL BE THE END OF THIS TIME AND THE BEGINNING OF IMMORTAL TIME TO COME."

OF COURSE THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING OF A NEBULOUS TRANSLATION, FINIS TEMPORIS...

RING

BIOLOGY.

IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE FASCINATING-- AN ANOMALY IN NATURE. THE SPORE INFECTS THE ANT AND, FOR LACK OF A BETTER PHRASE, TURNS ITS VICTIM INTO A "ZOMBIE." WE'LL GET INTO MORE DETAIL ON *MONDAY*...

RING

THEOLOGY.

C'MON GUYS, I'M NOT GOING TO INSULT YOUR INTELLIGENCE, BUT YOU CAN'T DENY THE COMMONALITY. RIGHT. WRONG. JUDGEMENT. *HELL.*

CONCEPTS ACROSS NEARLY EVERY FAITH. IS THIS HUMANITY'S FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN OR SOMETHING MORE? THAT'S THE REAL QUESTION, ISN'T IT?

RING

SO... HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

THE USUAL. BEKKA AND SHAUNA WERE TOTAL BITCHES, AND THEN I BLACKED OUT.

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT THERE'S SOME IMPENDING DOOM RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER FOR SOME REASON.

WELCOME TO *PROM WEEK.* THIS TIME OF YEAR EVERY SELF-ENTITLED GIRL IN SCHOOL BECOMES A RAGING *WHORE BOX.*

IT'S LIKE THEY INFUSE THE WATER WITH GAMMA RADIATION OR SOMETHING.

EXCUSE ME, MS. RODRIGUEZ.

NEED I REMIND YOU THAT SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IS GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION?

STEP

THANKFULLY I'M NOT ON THE GROUNDS, HUH?

AHH!!

WHOA! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU THERE! YOU GETTING IN OR WHAT?

JESUS CHRIST, COOP! YOU COULD HAVE KILLED HER!

I'M NOT THE ONE WALKING INTO *ONCOMING TRAFFIC.* OFFER STILL STANDS, BUT WE GOTTA GET TO THE BEACH BEFORE *SUNDOWN.*

YEAH, WE'RE IN, ASSHOLE.

PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF THESE YOUNG LADIES, COOPER BARNES, OR YOU WILL ANSWER TO *ME.*

YOU GOT IT, *DEAN WINCHESTER.*

I HAVE MY *EYES* ON YOU, BARNES.

I HATE THAT GUY. SERIOUSLY.

"PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF THESE YOUNG LADIES, COOPER BARNES."

LIKE WE NEED A *MAN* TO PROTECT US.

SHIT GOES DOWN, YOU'RE GONNA NEED *US* TO SAVE YOUR ASS.

AM I THE ONLY ONE THAT THINKS IT'S FUNNY THAT HIS NAME IS DEAN WINCHESTER, LIKE THE GUY IN *SUPERNATURAL?*

IT'S HIS *JOB,* NOT HIS *NAME.* I WISH HE WAS JENSEN ACKLES. MAYBE THEN I COULD FORGIVE HIS HOLIER THAN THOU ATTITUDE.

LIKE... CIGARS?

NO, MAN. WINCHESTER IS A HUGE *POT HEAD.* I HOUSE SAT FOR HIM LAST SUMMER AND FOUND HIS STASH.

FUCK YOU, COOPER BARNES.

AW, HE'S NOT SO BAD. HE'S PRETTY INTERESTING IF YOU GET DOWN TO *REAL TALK.*

HE'S WAY INTO HIP HOP AND COLLECTS STUFF. LIKE VINTAGE TOYS AND GUNS. PLUS, *HE SMOKES.*

NO, I'M *SERIOUS*. THAT GUY IS COOL IN MY BOOK.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED!

HE KNOWS HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. SO, AH, SPEAKING OF--

--UM, TINA, WOULD YOU WANT TO GO TO PROM WITH ME?

COOP, I DON'T KNOW, I MEAN... ERIKA-

NO, I GET IT. YOU GUYS HAVE PLANS. I- I'M GOING TO GET A BEER.

NO, NO. I'D LOVE TO GO WITH YOU. I-

I'M GOING TO TAKE A *WALK*.

ERIKA, WAIT!

I'LL BE FINE. ENJOY *THE MOMENT*.

I don't know why I didn't see this coming.

Of course he'd want to go with her.

WHY DID I EVER THINK I HAD A CHANCE?

HEY, ERIKA, RIGHT? ARE YOU OKAY?

YUH, YEAH.

I'M SORRY, I JUST NEED TO BE ALONE.

WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO THAT GIRL, TRAVON?

DON'T *START*, BETHANY.

DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE FINE. YOU'LL BE FINE.

BUT IF THEY FIND OUT, I'LL BE EXPELLED OR WORSE. I'LL LOSE MY *FRIENDS.*

NO. THEY'LL UNDERSTAND. IF THEY DON'T, THEY AREN'T REALLY YOUR FRIENDS AT ALL.

WHAT THE HELL?

AND TRUST ME, I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU, NO MATTER WHAT.

I LOVE YOU, SHAUNA.

I LOVE YOU TOO, CHANDRA.

WHAT DID I JUST STUMBLE INTO?!

THIS IS TOO BIG. THIS–

AAEEEEII--!

WELL, PISS MY PANTS. WHAT DO WE HAVE *HERE?*

HEY, SORRY TO BREAK UP THE LOVEFEST, I WAS JUST TRYING TO FIND MY FRIEND, AND-

SHUT THE FUCK UP, YOU *PIECE OF TRASH.*

WHATEVER YOU SAW. WHATEVER YOU *THINK* YOU SAW--

--FORGET IT, OR I SWEAR I WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE HELL. YOU AND YOUR "LITTLE" FRIEND.

YEAH, WE'RE COOL. COOL AS *ICEBERGS.*

YOU HEAR ME, BI-

THAT'S *ENOUGH*, SHAUNA. THEY'LL BE COOL. RIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT??*

MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY.

AND WHAT'S WITH YOU CREEPING UP ON ME?

YOU NEARLY SCARED ME TO DEATH!

HEY, I WAS JUST COMING TO GET YOU. AFTER, YOU KNOW, COOPER ASKED ME TO PROM...

...I WAS JUST...

I WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY.

OH, THAT. N-NO, NO. IT'S ***FINE***. I ***WANT*** YOU TO GO. HE'S A GREAT GUY.

THAT'S THE THING. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO PROM. NOT WITHOUT *YOU.*

THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY BEFORE YOU LEFT.

GOD, YOU'RE BOTH SO SENSITIVE!

LISTEN, HE ONLY ASKED ME AS A *FRIEND*, AND I'M ASKING YOU THE SAME:

WILL YOU GO TO PROM WITH US?

OF COURSE. I LOVE YOU, TINA.

BACK AT YOU. BUT SERIOUSLY, WE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE PARTY. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO *TALK.*

DO YOU THINK HE KNOWS? HOW I FEEL, I MEAN?

NO? YES? MAYBE? LET'S DEAL WITH IT ONE DAY AT A TIME, OKAY?

RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO OUR MAN, COOPER BARNES.

"HE'LL KILL US IF WE MISS THE METEOR SHOWER."

AIN'T ENOUGH WEEKENDS IN THE YEAR, OLE BOY.

AN' NEXT WEEK IS TIME AND A HALF. GODDAMN PROM IS GONNA *SUCK.*

BOW

HOLD ON, BOY! *HEEL!*

WOOF!

WOOF!

WHAT THE HELL?

RENNY, I TOLDJA TO WAIT FER ME. WHAT DID YOU FIND, BOY?

WHAT *IS* THAT? LOOKS LIKE SOME SORTA GIANT PISTACHIO OR SOMETHING.

C'MON, RENNY. WE GOTTA MAKE A CALL, GET THE SHERIFF OUT H-

URK!!

WOOF! WOOF!

ONE WEEK LATER.

AND IF YOU'RE GOOD TONIGHT, YOU MAY JUST GET A PIECE OF THIS, TRAVON.

UH, YEAH, OKAY BETHANY.

BETHANY HENDRICKS AND TRAVON MURPHY

I DON'T KNOW WHY WE COULDN'T RIDE WITH EVERYONE ELSE IN THE *LIMO*.

NO WAY. THIS IS THE WAY YOU MAKE AN *ENTRANCE*, GIRL!

OH, AND YOU'RE DRIVING US HOME. I'M GONNA GET *DRUUUUUUNK!*

SHAUNA HENDRICKS AND BRADFORD GRAHAM

BRRRR... IT'S *COLD* OUT HERE!

LET'S GET IN THERE AND GET OUR BOOGIE ON. THAT'LL WARM YA UP!

IT'S ALWAYS WARMER... IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST!!!

NNNNNRRR

HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA

COOPER BARNES, ERIKA PALINSKI, AND TINA RODRIGUEZ

MEANWHILE IN THE GYM.

PLANNING ON SPIKING THE PUNCH, *MISTER FRANCHI?*

JUST *MY OWN*, WINCHESTER.

DRINKING ON CAMPUS... AT A SCHOOL EVENT NO LESS, IS UNACCEPTABLE, KEN!

I KNOW YOU'RE JUST THE PROFESSOR OF ARTS, BUT-

WHOA WHOA *WHOA*, WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

AND WHERE DO YOU GET OFF JUDGING ME, WINCHESTER? *YOU'RE* THE ONE WITH THE *SUBSTANCE PROBLEM.*

MY PROCLIVITIES ARE KEPT FAR, FAR AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN. I-

OOOOH, MISTER BIG WORDS...

IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A POTHEAD OF THE *JERRY GARCIAN LEVEL.*

YOU THINK JUST 'CAUSE YOU DRESS IT UP WITH FANCY WORDS LIKE "PROCLIVITIY" YOU'RE ABOVE-

YOU VOLUNTEERED TO CHAPERONE THIS DANCE-

I WAS *VOLUNTEERED*, DEAN. BIG DISTINCTION THERE.

YOU THINK I WANT TO SPEND MY FRIDAY NIGHT WITH THESE SNOT-NOSED-

WE ARE AN *INSTITUTION,* MR. FRANCHI, AND YOU ARE TO BE AN EXAMPLE FOR THE STUDENTS.

UM, DEAN WINCHESTER?

THE, UM, THE MUSIC IS ABOUT TO START, SHOULD WE GREET THE LAST OF THE KIDS? MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME?

YES. YES, MISS CAMPBELL.

THIS IS FAR FROM OVER, MISTER FRANCHI. I'LL DEAL WITH YOU ON *MONDAY.*

UH HUH...

...IF I DON'T TAKE A SICK DAY FROM OVER "PROCLIVITIZING" MYSELF.

ASSHOLE.

FASHIONABLY *LATE*, MISTER BARNES.

I AM NOTHING IF NOT FASHIONABLE. GOOD TO SEE YOU, DEAN WINCHESTER. YOU TOO, MISS CAMPBELL.

YOU KNOW, I THINK WE'VE DONE A GOOD THING HERE. THIS IS A NIGHT THEY WILL NEVER FORGET.

LOOK AT THEM ALL...

THESE KIDS... THEY CAN BE VICIOUS LITTLE CREATURES, BUT TONIGHT...

TONIGHT THEY'VE PUT ASIDE THEIR PETTY DIFFERENCES...

...THEIR SOCIAL STANDINGS AND POPULARITY CONTESTS...

...AND COME TOGETHER IN A CELEBRATION OF *LIFE.*

...DEAAAAAATH...

CHRIST, MCGUFFIN, YOU SCARED US HALF TO-

...DEATH...

LISTEN, HANK, I NEED YOU TO-

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, MAN? ARE YOU-

THE HARBINGER.

I AM THE HARBINGER OF DEATH.

WE WILL NOT BE STOPPED.

YOU CANNOT STOP UUSSSSSS...

RiiiP

THE MANY WILL BECOME ONE.

KOFF

HURK...

SAMANTHA? MISS CAMPBELL?

HURRRR...

WH- WHAT'S GOING ON?

COUGH COUGH!

SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON OVER THERE.

WH- WHAT'S UP?

OOOH, SHIT! LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE SPIKED THE PUNCH!

I WANT WHATEVER *THEY'RE* HAVING, TEE HEE!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BEKKA?! GET BACK HERE!

OH, RELAX, MOM. I JUST WANT TO *MINGLE.*

DAMN, DEREK. YOU LOOK ALL KINDS OF MESSED UP.

DID YOU DROP SOME OF THAT MOLLY WITHOUT ME?

GUK-GUH--! P-PLEASE.

WHA-WHAT? *URK!*

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

I'M WITH THE BAND GEEK.

CHILDREN, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE!

B-BUH-BUT WHERE DEAN WINCHESTER?

THAT WAY, TOWARDS MY *OFFICE*. WE'LL BE SAFE *THERE*.

HOW THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO BE SAFE *THERE?*

I'VE BEEN STOCKPILING *WEAPONS*, BRADFORD.

WAIT, *WHAT??*

OH, DON'T GET ON A HIGH HORSE NOW, MS. RODRIGUEZ.

I WAS MERELY PREPARING FOR THE DAY WHEN ONE OF YOU "SENSITIVE TYPES" LOST YOUR SHIT, AND CAME LOOKING TO HARM THE REST.

TRUST ME, YOU WILL THANK ME LATER.

NOW COVER YOUR MOUTHS, CHILDREN...

...WHATEVER IS INFECTING THEM IS ENTERING THROUGH THE MOUTH AND NOSTRILS.

SEE? I TOLD YOU HE WAS *SUPER COOL.*

QUICKLY NOW, INTO THE HALLWAY!

THANKS, DEAN. YOU-

NONSENSE, SON. NOW LET'S GET TO THE OFFICE, AND-

GURK!

DEAN WINCHESTER! NO-!!

PLEASE, YOU CAN'T- YOU CAN'T DIE, YOU-

C'MON, COOP! WE HAVE TO GO!

KUH- KOOPER- KUH- KUH- KEYS-

KUH-
KEEEEYS.

I- I'M
SOR-

KRAK

WE
GOTTA
GO!

TALK
LATER!

LATER.

WHAT THE SHIT WAS THAT, MAN?! THEY- THEY WERE LIKE ZOMBIES. SLOW... LIKE KIRKMAN STYLE.

ROMERO ZOMBIES. KIRKMAN IS JUST A BITER. HEH. BITER.

SEMANTICS. I THINK WE-

SHUT UP. JUST- HEY, IS ANYONE ELSE GETTING A SIGNAL?

I'M JUST SAYING, EVERYONE THINKS KIRKMAN IS SOOOO ORIGINAL, BUT-

I SAID SHUT UP! CHECK YOUR PHONES!

NOPE, NOTHING.

ZERO BARS. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON???

THE DEAN, BEKKA... ALL THOSE KIDS IN THE GYM. THEY'RE... THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

THEY'RE ALL DEAD, AND WE'RE NEXT! OH, GOD...

DON'T SAY THAT, COOPER. Y-YOU...YOU CAN'T GIVE UP HOPE. WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE.

HOW? YOU SAW. THEY... THEY WERE ALL GETTING TURNED. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THEM AND JUST US... JUST US LEFT. WE-

COOP. YOU KNOW THIS PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND.

WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE. WE'VE GOT THIS.

I... THANKS, ERIKA.

LET'S JUST STAY CALM AND THINK THIS THROUGH.

CHUNKY IS RIGHT. WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS IF WE STICK TOGETHER.

GODDAMN, WOMAN, DO YOU EVER ***STOP?*** AND YOU WONDER WHY WE ***NEVER***-

-NEVER-

AH, SO WHAT DO WE KNOW?

DID YOU HEAR OLD MAN MCGUFFIN? HE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT ***MANY*** BECOMING ***ONE.***

LIKE FROM STAR TREK? THE BORG? SOME KIND OF HIVE MIND?

WHAT? I WATCH RERUNS WITH *MY DAD.*

THEY *DID* HAVE ANTENNAS. MAYBE THEY *ARE* A HIVE MIND.

AND DID YOU SEE HOW FRAGILE THEY ARE? ONE PUNCH AND THEY *CRUMBLE.*

YEAH, BUT MORE OF THOSE SPORES ARE RELEASED INTO THE AIR WHEN THEY *DO.*

THAT STUFF GETS IN YOUR THROAT AND YOU'RE DONE. *GAH!*

SHE'S RIGHT. WE NEED TO KILL THEM FROM A DISTANCE.

DEAN WINCHESTER'S GUNS! HE GAVE ME THE KEYS, BUT-

-BUT WHERE IS HIS STASH?

I MEAN REALLY, IT MAKES SENSE THAT IT WOULDN'T BE OUT IN THE OPEN, I MEAN-

-BUT WHERE *IS* IT?!

COUGH! COUGH!

COOPER?

WE REALLY NEED A WIN HERE, PEOPLE, WE-

COOPER!

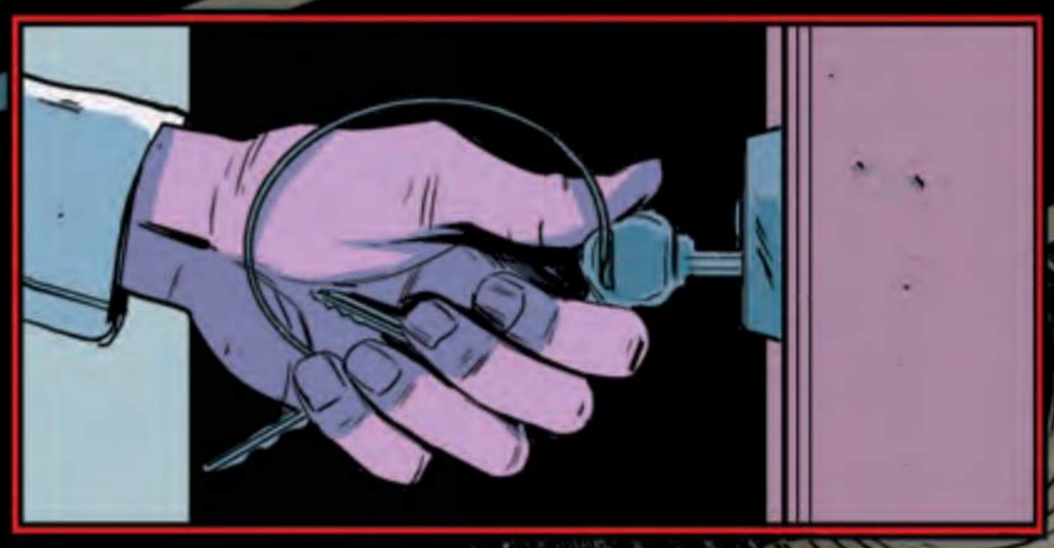
THIS BOOKCASE IS ON *HINGES.*

I COULD KISS YOU, ERIKA.

I, WELL, UM-

C'MON GUYS, LET'S SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THIS THING!

OH, SHIT, YEAH. THIS HAS GOT TO BE IT, RIGHT?



HOLY *SHIT.* WE ARE GOING TO KILL THE FUCK OUTTA THOSE SPORES...

...BUT FIRST WE ARE GOING TO SMOKE *ALL* OF THAT WEED.

ONE FRANTIC SCRAMBLE FOR A PIPE AND LIGHTER LATER...

THIS. THIS IS COOL. I DUNNO. I NEVER THOUGHT TONIGHT WOULD BE SO *COOL.*

I CAN HEAR THEM SCRATCHING AT THE DOOR.

HA HA! JUST SIT YOUR BONY ASS DOWN AND REVEL IN THIS...

THIS...

BREAKFAST CLUB MOMENT.

SHIT. THAT MAKES ME ANTHONY MICHAEL HALL. AND YOU'RE-

ALLY SHEEDY, BITCHES. COOLNESS CONFIRMED!

SERIOUSLY, GUYS. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY THIS, BUT I'M GLAD THIS HAPPENED.

I MEAN NOT THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, BUT THIS-

-US-

WHAT THE FUCK WAS *THAT?!*

WHAT?

I... BABY, IT'S NOTHING.

THAT. YOU AND *HER.*

OH, HERE WE GO.

WHAT? I'M JUST TRYING TO BE NICE.

LIKE YOU WERE WITH BEKKA LAST SUMMER? *FUCK YOU, BRAD.*

MAYBE IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A *BITCH*, HE WOULDN'T-

WHAT? SLEEP WITH TRASH LIKE *YOU?*

HOW LONG? *HOW LONG?*

THREE MONTHS.

OH, FUCK THIS. YOU KNOW WHY I'M A BITCH?

WHY I'M SOOOOO DEFENSIVE?

WHY I MET CHANDRA IN THE FOREST BY THE LAKE?

CHANDRA? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABO-

IT'S BECAUSE I'M *PREGNANT*, YOU DICK. I'M JUST LIKE *CHANDRA*.

IF THIS WASN'T THE END OF THE WORLD, I'D BE EXPELLED FOR SURE.

WELL, GUESS WHAT?

I DON'T NEED *ANY* OF YOU.

WELL, SHE'S *DEAD.*

BETH! THAT'S YOUR *BEST FRIEND.*

I'M HIGH.

I'M PROCESSING THE LOSS IN MY OWN WAY IS ALL.

SHE... SHE...

YOU... WE CAN'T GO AFTER HER. SHE'S GONE. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF. SHE-

JESUS, TINA, *REALLY?!*

YOU AND BRAD, AND NOW *THIS?* SHE'S OUR CLASSMATE!

YOU KNOW WHAT? I'LL GET HER BACK.

COOP-!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, I KNOW THIS PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRAD? YOU COMING OR WHAT? SHE'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

WHOA, WHOA. SHE ISN'T HIS PROPERTY.

THIS ISN'T THE DARK AGES, ASSHOLE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I *MEANT* AND YOU KNOW IT.

SHE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT IF NOT FOR YOU, BRAD. WHAT'LL IT BE? IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

...

FINE. STAY HERE THEN, BRAD.

BUT IF THERE IS A HELL, YOU JUST BOUGHT A ONE-WAY TICKET THERE.

I'M GOING TO FIND SHAUNA, AND THEN I'M GOING TO GET JANITOR MCGUFFIN'S KEY RING.

IF WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF SURVIVING THIS, WE'LL NEED ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE SCHOOL. LOCK THE DOOR BEHIND ME.

SLAM

CLICK.

WE... WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING. RIGHT?

THIS IS BULLSHIT.

WE CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER, AND I'M NOT LETTING THAT KID-

COOPER.

-COOPER. WE CAN'T LET HIM GO OUT THERE ALONE.

WHAT? YOU'RE A HERO NOW?

NO. MAYBE. ALL I KNOW IS WE CAN'T WAIT HERE FOREVER. OUR... OUR FRIENDS ARE OUT THERE AND THEY COULD BE DYING.

YOU CAN'T LEAVE US HERE! WE'RE JUST GIRLS!

HEY! I'M STILL HERE!

LIKE BETHANY SAID... JUST US GIRLS HERE.

ENOUGH!

WHILE WE'RE SITTING HERE ARGUING, COOPER IS OUT THERE.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE LET HIM LEAVE IN THE *FIRST PLACE.*

AND SHAUNA. SHE'S OUT THERE, TOO.

FUCK HER. SHE CAN ROT FOR ALL I CARE, BUT COOP-

NO.

NO, YOU DON'T GET IT, CHRISTINA. WE'RE ALL WE HAVE LEFT. *THIS GROUP.*

WE ALL NEED TO STICK TOGETHER OR WE'RE ALL GOING TO *DIE.*

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. I LET HER LUH-LEAVE. I WAS JUST SO SCARED... OF BEING A DAD... OF EVERYTHING...

IT'S OKAY, BRO. WE CAN MAKE THIS RIGHT.

SEE? IT'S SETTLED.

FINE. WHATEVER. I'M SOBER NOW ANYWAYS.

LET'S JUST FIND THEM AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

IT'S DARK. LIKE, REAL DARK. IS THE POWER OUT IN TOWN?

LOOKS LIKE IT. DO YOU THINK THIS... WHATEVER THIS IS IS WIDESPREAD?

OH, HEY. I LIFTED THIS FROM WINCHESTER'S OFFICE. LET THERE BE LIGHT.

SEE? LIMP DICK IS GOOD FOR *SOMETHING.*

AND WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?

YOU THINK THAT *GOLF CLUB* IS GONNA HELP US AT ALL?

I'M A PACIFIST. AND A VEGAN.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO *EAT* THEM, MORON.

JUST 'CAUSE IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD DOESN'T MEAN I NEED TO SELL OUT ON MY BELIEFS.

THAT IS THE DUMBEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD.

WHATEVER, WHOREBOX. I GOT STANDARDS. I-

!!EEE!

C'MON. THAT SCREAM CAME FROM AROUND THE CORNER.

SHOULDN'T WE MAYBE NOT GO IN GUNS BLAZING?

GUYS?

TYPICAL.

HOLD UP, GUYS, I- I- I

COOPER?

RUH-
RUN.

I- I-

FUCK! MY FUCKING GUN IS JAMMED! I CAN'T, I CAN'T-

PLA PLA PLA

-SAVE HIM! WE HAVE TO-

NO! THEY'LL GET YOU, TOO! WE HAVE TO-

-BOUNCE! WE HAVE TO GET THE FUCK OUTTA HERE!

BLAM

RUH-

RUN.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

NO–! NOOOOO!

SHIT! SOMEONE GIVE ME A GUN.

GIVE ME A GUN!

HERE, FELECIA! AW, SHIT.

BLAMM!

FELECIA! ARE YOU OKAY?

GURK-! GUH!

MOVE! FELECIA, WE- WE-

CAN YOU HEAR ME?! WE NEED TO MOVE! WE NEED TO-

OH, GOD.

BRAD!

CLIK

I- I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS, I- I-

TURN AWAY, TINA.

I GOT THIS.

TA TATATA TATATA TATATA TATATA TA

SORRY, GUYS.

TATATATATATATATATATA

TA TA

TA TA

CLIK CLIK CLIK

JUST DO IT, COOP.

HISSS-!!

ERIKA!

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?! YOU CAN'T DIE LIKE THIS! YOU-

AUGHH!

NO!

C'MON. WE GOTTA GO.

LUH- LEAVE ME. THIS IS, THIS-

THIS AIN'T A ZOMBIE MOVIE. YOU CAN *LIVE* THROUGH THIS.

HOW DO YOU *KNOW?*

I *DON'T!* BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP ON YOU, *YOU HEAR?*

YOU HAVE TOO MUCH TO *LIVE FOR.*

CHRISTINA, PLEASE! WE HAVE TO *GO!*

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES. I UNDERSTAND.

I ALWAYS HATED THIS SCHOOL.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

WE FOLLOW COOPER'S PLAY...

...HEAD BACK TO THE GYM AND GET SUPERINTENDENT MCGUFFIN'S KEYS.

WAIT UP! GODDAMMIT, TRAVON!

WHAP!

WHAT THE *FUCK*, TRAVON?!

I'M YOUR FUCKING *GIRLFRIEND*, AND YOU LEAVE ME *BEHIND?!*

OH, GET OVER YOURSELF. JESUS CHRIST, YOU ARE SO SELF-ABSORBED, IT'S EMBARRASSING.

DO YOU CARE ABOUT ANYONE BUT YOURSELF?

DO YOU ?!?

CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON?

OUR FRIENDS ARE DYING, AND PEOPLE... ***THESE PEOPLE*** NEED OUR HELP.

YOU WEREN'T RAISED TO BE LIKE THIS. YOUR- YOUR PARENTS WOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOU RIGHT NOW.

IF THIS IS WHO YOU REALLY ARE... THEN MAYBE I DON'T... MAYBE I ***CAN'T*** BE WITH YOU.

WHATEVER. I'M OVER IT. IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD ***SEX*** OR ANYTHING.

YOU'VE NEVER HAD MY BACK. NOT ***EVER.***

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS. DON'T LET THE SKINNY BITCH MURDER YOU BOTH.

BETHANY OUT!

THAT... WAS A SURPRISINGLY EASY BREAK UP.

"COUGH" SHE'S RIGHT, THOUGH.

I'M A LIABILITY. YOU NEED TO LEAVE ME BEHIND.

C'MON TINA, DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.

WALK AND TALK. WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.

LISTEN, I... THIS... THERE'S SOMETHING IN ME, AND IT'S NOT GOING TO GO AWAY.

I'M DYING. I CAN FEEL IT.

IT... THEY ARE WORKING THEIR WAY THROUGH ME. I CAN FEEL THEM- *THE SPORES*.

TINA!

THEIR THOUGHTS... AND MORE.

THIS ISN'T THE WALKING DEAD. IT'S NOT SOME ROMERO MOVIE.

IT'S NOT EVEN A ZACK SNYDER REMAKE.

THIS IS AN INVASION.

SOMETHING BIGGER COMING. I CAN ONLY SEE GLIMPSES.

LIKE STATIC... STATIC IMAGES INTO THEIR COLLECTIVE... COLLECTIVE... MIND.

THE "ZOMBIES..." WE... *THEY* ARE JUST THE *FIRST STAGE.*

THERE'S SOMETHING... AN ALIEN WORD I CAN'T UNDERSTAND,...

BUT WHEN MY MIND TRIES TO MAKE SENSE OF IT... IT SOUNDS LIKE... *WORLDBREAKER.*

I CAN ALMOST SEE THEM IN MY MIND, BUT THE IMAGE ISN'T QUITE CLEAR.

BUT *COUGH COUGH* THE CLOSER I GET TO BECOMING ONE OF THEM THE MORE THEY CAN SEE THRU MY EYES, TOO.

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THEM AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.

STOP TALKING LIKE THAT. WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

ERIKA'S RIGHT.

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE SMART ENOUGH TO LAY A TRAP FOR US.

AW, GODDAMNIT.

I'LL CLEAR A PATH. GET TO MACGUFFIN'S KEYS!

I TOLD YOU, WE'RE NOT LEAVING YOU!

LET ME DO THIS FOR YOU.

KRAK

YOU... YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY BEST FRIEND, TINA.

I LOVE YOU, TOO. NOW GET OUT OF HERE.

COME ON, ERIKA! WE GOTTA MOTOR!

WE CAN'T SQUANDER THE TIME SHE'S BUYING US.

SHE... SHE REALLY IS GOING TO D-DIE.

YEAH...

...BUT LOOK AT HER GO.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE MORE *ALIVE.*

CHRISTINA IS STARING DOWN DEATH AND GIVING IT A BIG "FUCK YOU."

IF I WASN'T QUEER I'D TOTALLY BE CRUSHING ON HER RIGHT NOW.

WAIT, YOU'RE GAY?!

I-

-I FOUND THE KEYS.

I, UH, THAT'S GREAT, BUT-

-BUT-

OH, NO.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, OKAY?

CRASH

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S IT THEN.

TRAVON! WE CAN HIDE IN THE BROOM CLOSET!

SHIT! SHIT! *SHIT!*

HURRY!

I DON'T KNOW WHICH KEY IT IS!

YES!!!

PUSH!

SLAM

SO... YOU'RE GAY?

CAN... CAN WE NOT TALK RIGHT N-

OH, I GET IT. NO, NO, THAT'S FINE. I-

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, IT'S JUST...

...I THINK WE SHOULD BE QUIET 'TIL THE ZOMBIES MOVE ON.

OH, SURE.

SO HAVE YOU ALWAYS KNOWN?

SIGH.

YES. NO. I DON'T KNOW. HAVE YOU ALWAYS KNOWN YOU WERE STRAIGHT?

I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS.

WELL, IT'S KIND OF, SORT OF, *EXACTLY* LIKE *THAT*, ERIKA.

I'M SORRY.

DON'T BE. IT'S OKAY. IT'S GOOD, ACTUALLY. I'VE BEEN HOLDING IT IN FOR A LONG TIME.

MY BIG SECRET.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT'S BEEN FOR ME. I MEAN, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN ATHLETE. A JOCK. YOU THINK THAT'D MAKE MY LIFE EASIER, BUT IT HASN'T.

THERE'S SO MUCH EXPECTATION ON ME. FROM MY COACHES, MY TEAMMATES, MY PARENTS.

I'VE BEEN LIVING MY ENTIRE LIFE TRYING TO LIVE UP TO EVERYONE ELSE'S STANDARDS. I COULD NEVER, EVER THINK TO BE "OUT."

HENCE THE TROPHY GIRLFRIEND.

EXACTLY.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS BAD. I'VE KNOWN BETHANY SINCE WE WERE THREE. SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.

YOUR PARENTS MUST HAVE BEEN ECSTATIC.

YEAH. YOU KNOW, MAYBE BETHANY WAS JUST PLAYING TO EXPECTATION, TOO.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING ONE OF TWO *P.O.C.S.* IN AN ALL-WHITE SCHOOL.

WAIT... YOU'RE *BLACK* TOO?!

BRAT!

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH. I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE. NOT EVEN BETHANY. I-

SHE DIDN'T KNOW?!

FOR REAL... SHE *DIDN'T KNOW?*

I MEAN, NO WONDER SHE WAS SUCH A BITCH. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT- WHAT IT'S LIKE, WANTING SOMETHING- SOMEONE YOU CAN *NEVER* HAVE.

DON'T I? THAT'S THE STORY OF MY LIFE.

I WAS HOLDING OUT HOPE-- GO TO COLLEGE, FINALLY GET TO LIVE MY LIFE ON MY TERMS. NOW THIS...

...I'LL PROBABLY DIE A VIRGIN.

WE COULD PRETEND.

WHAT?

WE- WE COULD PRETEND. I'M A- I'VE NEVER HAD SEX EITHER. WE COULD-

YOU KNOW I'M NOT-

I KNOW. I KNOW I'M NOT WHAT YOU WANT, BUT WHAT ELSE DO WE HAVE?

COOPER WAS EVERYTHING TO ME. HE WAS MUH- MY-

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

SCRTTCH
SCRTTCH
SCRTTCH

SCRTTCH
SCRTTCH

NOTION

C'MON, ERIKA. I THINK IT'S SAFE NOW.

YEAH, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW.

WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THEY ONLY COME OUT AT NIGHT.

LIKE VAMPIRES?

OR WEREWOLVES.

THAT WOULD BE COOL. WE'D JUST HAVE TO ADJUST OUR SLEEPING PATTERN. UP ALL NIGHT, SLEEP ALL DAY. PROBLEM SOLVED.

HEY, UH, ABOUT LAST NIGHT...

DON'T WORRY. IF WE ACTUALLY *DO* GET OUT OF THIS, I WON'T SAY A WORD.

OUR LIPS ARE *SEALED.*

I- THIS... THIS... WHAT *IS* THIS?

WHATEVER THIS IS, THEY SEEM TO BE PRETTY PREOCCUPIED.

MAYBE WE CAN JUST SNEAK AWAY. GET TO THE WOODS. WE-

BA-BOOM

WHAT THE-

GET BEHIND ME KIDS, I GOT THIS.

PROFESSOR FRANCHI?!

YOU'RE GODDAMN *RIGHT.*

WINCHESTER ALWAYS SUSPECTED I WAS A CLOSET ALCOHOLIC.

NEVER THOUGHT TO CHECK MY *OFFICE CLOSET*, THOUGH.

FLIK

LUCKY FOR US!

LUCKY?! YOU JUST GOT THEIR ATTENTION! WE COULD HAVE ESCAPED!

STOW IT, NERD.

WE'VE BEEN KILLING THESE THINGS ALL *NIGHT*.

I'M GETTING SO GOOD AT IT I'M THINKING OF MAKING IT MY *SUMMER JOB*.

HEH. YOU'RE A SPITFIRE, *LAURICE*.

I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT YOU. ONE MORE AND WE'LL GET THE F-

URK--!!

SHUNK

I-I-

WE'RE FUCKED.

FUCK THAT. WE CAN TAKE THESE MOTHER-FUCKERS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT REALITY *YOU* LIVE IN, BUT-

-BUT-

-BUT-

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

THUMP!

SLAM

CRUNCH

YOU LOSERS COMING OR WHAT?

SHAUNA?!

HOLY SHIT.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE.

C'MON, TRAVON! LET'S GO!!

FMU-768

GUYS, WAIT UP!

NO NO NO NO NO! TRAVON!

I- I-

NOT TODAY, CREEPER.

OH GOD OH GOD OH GOD

WE READY? IS THAT OTHER KID IN THE-

DRIVE!

WHAT?

WHAT?!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE.

NO! WE CAN'T LEAVE HER! WE CAN'T-

WE HAVE NO CHOICE! DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!

FUCK YOU, ERIKA! I'LL FUCKING KILL YOOUUUUUU-!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

I- I SAVED US. ANY LONGER AND THEY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO- TO-

HEY, WHERE'S THE TINY CHICK WITH THE AXE?

SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT.

THAT'S A SHAME. WE COULD HAVE USED SOMEONE LIKE HER...

...'CAUSE THIS IS FAR FROM OVER.

FMU-768

TWO HOURS LATER...

I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN, TRAVON, I'M GONNA MAKE YOU PAY. YOU-
SOMETHING SIMILAR. GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON. MAYBE GET SOME PAYBACK. YOU WANT IN?

*MMMMMMM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
GETTING AS FAR AWAY FROM THAT SCHOOL AS POSSIBLE.
MY BITCH ASS BOYFRIEND LEFT ME TO DIE. YOU?

TO BE CONTINUED...

COMIC CLUB

United by their love of "funny books," these students meet weekly to disucss their "favorite titles" and have even started making their own comics! Watch out world, these budding creators are poised to take the world by storm!

Dave Dwonch

Dave Dwonch has been working on comics for years! His writing credits include Infnite Seven, Cyrus Perkins and the Haunted Taxi Cab, Double Jumpers, and Vamplets (co-written with creator Gayle Middleton).

Dave can be found all over the internet @davedwonch and all of his work can be found at outofmymind.co

Santiago Guillen

Hailing from Argentina, Santiago has been obsessed with fantastic creatures and flying heroes for years. That may sound nerdy, but his passion is serving him well.

Expect great things from this young lad!

His work can be found at:
santiguillen.blogspot.com.ar/
instagram.com/santi.guillen/
behance.net/santiguillen

Daniel Arruda Massa

Daniel Arruda Massa sometimes likes to color comics. When he's not coloring, he likes to draw his own books and is one half of the dynamic duo responsible for Holy F*ck and Cougar and Cub. He is very animated, and also animates! He can be found spending his free time hanging out with his fiance. Sorry, ladies!

Stalk him at these sites:

http://danielarrudamassa.nl/
instagram.com/darrudamassa.art/
facebook.com/danielarrudamassa/
http://darrudamassa.tumblr.com/

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